

for nearly seven years, how can the United States and Russia continue to be one bad call away from a nuclear disaster?

It is precisely for this reason that last September I sent a letter to the Congressional Budget Office asking them to assess the budget and security consequences of a series of measures designed to reduce the spread of nuclear weapons and the likelihood that they will ever be used. On Friday I received preliminary results from CBO on one means to accomplish this objective—improving Russia's confidence that it is not under attack by providing it with a global awareness of missile launches.

CBO reaches several conclusions in its report. First, there are a number of deficiencies in Russia's ground- and satellite-based early-warning systems. According to CBO, "Russia's early warning radars will not detect all missile attacks, especially missiles launched on shallow trajectories from submarines." The situation is similar with respect to Russia's space-based platforms. Quoting CBO, "Russia's satellite-based early-warning system also has shortcomings . . . CBO has estimated that its [satellite] fleet currently provides coverage of the U.S. missile fields for less than 17 hours a day. Thus, Russia cannot depend on its fleet to detect a U.S. missile launch." Second, CBO states that, "shortcomings in Russia's early-warning system can have a direct effect on the security of the United States." Nothing demonstrates this reality better than the Norwegian missile launch. Third, there are a variety of options available to the United States and Russia to address deficiencies in Russia's early warning system. Although CBO rightly asserts that further study is required to ensure that U.S. security is enhanced, not compromised, CBO lays out 5 options for U.S. policymakers. I ask that all of my colleagues take a look at this excellent study.

It must be noted at this point that during the recently concluded U.S.-Russia summit, just days before CBO released its analysis to me, the Administration and the Russians reached agreement to implement the first of CBO's 5 options—sharing early warning information on the launch of ballistic missiles and space launch vehicles. I commend the Administration for this initiative. I believe it is a small but useful step. However, it does not fully address the underlying weaknesses in Russia's early warning systems. The proposal will give the Russians access to some of our early warning data but does nothing to improve Russia's own ability to collect and assess this same information.

Therefore, much more needs to be done, not only in the area of early warning but elsewhere, if we are to reduce the risk of the spread and use of weapons of mass destruction to an acceptable level. As I stand here today—nearly 8 years after the fall of the Ber-

lin Wall and the end of the Cold War—the United States and Russia still possess nearly 14,000 strategic nuclear weapons and tens of thousands of tactical nuclear weapons. Even more alarming, both sides keep the vast majority of their strategic weapons on a high level of alert, greatly increasing the likelihood of an unauthorized or accidental launch.

Russia's current economic and fiscal woes only add to my sense of concern. Numerous press accounts point out that Russia's early warning sensors are aging and incomplete, its command and control system is deteriorating, and the morale of the personnel operating these systems is suffering as a result of lack of pay and difficult working conditions. The Washington Post ran an article just yesterday that illustrates how increasingly dire economic circumstances in Russia affect U.S. security. According to the Post, street protests are popping up all over Russia, including a town called Snezhinsk, home of a nuclear weapons laboratory where workers said they have not been paid for 5 months.

I believe reducing the risks posed by weapons of mass destruction in Russia and elsewhere must be our number one national security objective in the post-Cold War era. In this regard, there are 3 initiatives the United States could take immediately that begin to address these risks: de-alerting a portion of the U.S. and Russian strategic and nuclear weapons, ratifying the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, and pushing for much deeper reductions in nuclear weapons than currently contemplated in START II.

However, these measures alone are not enough. We must vigorously pursue other possible avenues, many of which may lie outside the traditional arms control process. Therefore, I have asked the Congressional Budget Office to explore the budgetary and security implications of numerous other "non-traditional" proposals. I understand this work is nearing completion and hope to report back to the Senate on CBO's findings before we adjourn. I look forward to working with my colleagues and the Administration in the next session of Congress to fully explore these proposals.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Madam President, at the close of business Friday, September 18, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,516,026,623,213.76 (Five trillion, five hundred sixteen billion, twenty-six million, six hundred twenty-three thousand, two hundred thirteen dollars and seventy-six cents).

One year ago, September 18, 1997, the federal debt stood at \$5,374,489,000,000 (Five trillion, three hundred seventy-four billion, four hundred eighty-nine million).

Twenty-five years ago, September 18, 1973, the federal debt stood at \$460,592,000,000 (Four hundred sixty bil-

lion, five hundred ninety-two million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,055,434,623,213.76 (Five trillion, fifty-five billion, four hundred thirty-four million, six hundred twenty-three thousand, two hundred thirteen dollars and seventy-six cents) during the past 25 years.

U.S. FOREIGN OIL CONSUMPTION FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 11

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the American Petroleum Institute has reported that for the week ending September 11 that the U.S. imported 8,694,000 barrels of oil each day, 667,000 barrels a day less than the 9,371,000 imported during the same week a year ago.

While this is one of the rare weeks when Americans imported slightly less foreign oil than the same week a year ago, Americans still relied on foreign oil for 58 percent of their needs last week. There are no signs that the upward spiral will abate. Before the Persian Gulf war, the United States imported about 45 percent of its oil supply from foreign countries. During the Arab oil embargo in the 1970's, foreign oil accounted for only 35 percent of America's oil supply.

All Americans should ponder the economic calamity certain to occur in the United States, if and when, foreign producers shut off our supply—or double the already enormous cost of imported oil flowing into the United States: now 8,694,000 barrels a day at a cost of approximately \$104,154,120 a day.

SECRETARY OF EDUCATION DICK RILEY'S "BACK TO SCHOOL" ADDRESS

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, on September 15, 1998, at the National Press Club, Secretary of Education Dick Riley, delivered an impressive "Back to School" Address on the state of education in the nation.

No one has been more thoughtful and effective in the effort to improve public schools for all children. I believe all of us will be interested in seeing this important address, and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

THE CHALLENGE FOR AMERICA: A HIGH QUALITY TEACHER IN EVERY CLASSROOM

Good afternoon. At the beginning of every school year, I have the good fortune to come to the National Press Club to give my "Back to School" address. I have been traveling from Georgia to the Pacific Northwest as part of my annual back to school push, and I can tell you that America's schools are overflowing with children. It is an exciting time for children and parents; but in too many cases our schools are overcrowded, wearing out and in desperate need of modernization.

As I noted in our annual report on the "baby-boom echo" which we released last week, we are once again breaking the national enrollment record. There are currently 52.7 million young people in school and more on the way. And in the next ten